

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This office action is in response to the amendments filed 12/17/07; claims 1 – 4 are pending in the current application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The original disclosure fails to specify the use of an interface of the first and second portions defining a stepped – down rear holder surface. The interface defining the stepped – down rear holder surface is considered to be new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss (U.S. 6,623,006) in view of Emori (U.S. 2004/0166925).

Regarding claim 1, Weiss provides a gaming machine that comprises a variable display device for variably displaying symbols (mechanical reels, items 64,66,68 of fig. 2) and an electrical display device with a variable display device (item 20 of fig. 1) which allows the display to be observed from outside the gaming machine (item 54 of fig. 1) using a rear support for the display (col. 3, line 10). Weiss's gaming machine also comprises of having one or more windows allowing the designs variably displayed in order to expose the light of the display (col. 2, lines 9-13). However, Weiss's gaming machine does not discuss if the electric display panel is located in front of the variable display device. In a related art, however, Emori provides a gaming machine that discloses a front display device arranged in front of the variable display device that allows the variable display to be viewed and a rear holder for holding the electrical display from a rear side thereof, wherein the rear holder comprising of at least one or more windows allowing the designs displayed to be viewed, and that peripheral corner portions of the windows are removed therefrom (par. 0003, par. 0009, par. 0014, par. 0036, and fig. 6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Emori and the gaming machine or Weiss in order to create a gaming machine that included a variable display device and an electric display with one another.

Regarding claim 2, Weiss teaches a game machine wherein the variable display device is one or more rotatable reels each having a reel band, on which said designs are drawn (items 64,66,68 of fig. 2).

Regarding claim 3, Weiss teaches a game machine that is a slot machine (fig. 1).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1699. The examiner can normally be reached on 7a.m. - 3p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert E Pezzuto/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

